

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
  - an integrated circuit;
  - a printed circuit board (PCB) including at least one signal layer for conveying signals to and from the integrated circuit, wherein the PCB is not configured for providing core power to the integrated circuit;
  - a power laminate for providing core power to the integrated circuit, wherein the power laminate includes a plurality of plane pairs, wherein each of the plurality of plane pairs includes a power plane and a reference plane, and wherein the power laminate is separate from the PCB;
  - a voltage regulator circuit mounted upon the power laminate, the voltage regulator circuit configured for receiving a first voltage and providing a second voltage to the power laminate, wherein the second voltage is the core power voltage; and
  - a plurality of decoupling capacitors mounted upon the power laminate.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power laminate is arranged between the integrated circuit and the PCB.
5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the power laminate includes an aperture for allowing signals to pass from the PCB to the integrated circuit.
6. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power laminate is mounted to the PCB by soldering.

7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the power laminate includes a ball-grid array for mounting to the PCB.
8. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power laminate includes a land-grid array for mounting to the PCB.
9. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power laminate includes a dielectric layer arranged between the power plane and the reference plane.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of plane pairs is in an electrically parallel configuration with respect to each of the other plane pairs of the plurality of plane pairs.
12. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power laminate includes a connector for coupling a power source to the power laminate.
13. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the voltage regulator circuit is a switching voltage regulator.
14. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the voltage regulator circuit includes:
  - a connector for connecting a power source to the voltage regulator circuit;
  - a slew inductor for storing energy and delivering current to a load coupled to the voltage regulator circuit;
  - a first switch connected between the connector and the slew inductor; and
  - a second switch connected between the slew inductor and the reference plane;wherein the voltage regulator circuit is configured to close the second switch and open the first switch if the amount of current the slew inductor delivers to the load exceeds an amount of current demanded by the load.